

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 EURE-00 /072 W

-----081812Z 075068 /43

P R 081725Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3206

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL FLORENCE 1270

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT

SUBJ: LOCKHEED DEBATE STIRRED BY ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC

REF: A) ROME 3566; B) ROME 3469

1. THE ROUTINE OF THE OTHERWISE DULL AND PREDICTABLE PARLIA-  
MENTARY DEBATE ON THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL WAS BROKEN MARCH 7  
WHEN FIERY DEPUTY MARCO PANNELLA, LEADER OF THE SMALL  
RADICAL PARTY, ACCUSED THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE OF HAVING  
FAILED DELIBERATELY TO UTILIZE ALL THE EVIDENCE  
AVAILABLE, AND THEREBY OF HAVING LEFT UNEXPLORED A TRAIL  
OF EVIDENCE WHICH LEADS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,  
GIOVANNI LEONE. PANNELLA BASED HIS ACCUSATION ON THE  
TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN LEONE AND ANTONIO AND OVIDIO  
LEFEBVRE, WHO ACTED AS MIDDLEMEN FOR LOCKHEED AND WERE  
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INCRIMINATED BY THE COMMITTEE. PANNELLA ALLEGED THAT  
EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE BROTHERS LEFEBVRE USED THAT  
FRIENDSHIP WITH LEONE TO ADVANCE LOCKHEED'S INTERESTS IN  
TWO SPECIFIC PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS -- THE PURCHASE  
OF P-3 ORION AIRCRAFT BY THE ITALIAN NAVY AND THE SALE  
TO TURKEY OF F-104 STARFIGHTER AIRCRAFT PRODUCED UNDER  
LICENSE IN ITALY. (FOR VARIOUS REASONS, NEITHER

TRANSACTION EVER TOOK PLACE.) PANNELLA PROPOSED TO SEND THE LOCKHEED QUESTION BACK TO COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

2. THIS DIRECT ATTACK AGAINST THE HEAD OF STATE CAUSED A SHORT-LIVED TEMPEST IN PARLIAMENT. COMMUNISTS, WHO HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED POLEMICAL CONFLICT WITH THE DC OVER THE LOCKHEED QUESTION, SUGGESTED THAT ANY EVIDENCE RELATING TO PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE CURRENTLY INCREMINATED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY AT A FUTURE DATE. A COMMUNIST DEPUTY ACCUSED PANNELLA OF HELPING THE CAUSE OF THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE THE WHOLE MATTER COVERED UP. THE SOCIALISTS, STILL RECOVERING FROM THE INTRAPARTY LACERATIONS CASUED BY THEIR DECISION IN THE CASE OF EX-PM RUMOR, WERE MORE EQUIVOCAL. PARTY LEADER CRAXI CHARACTERIZED THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY PANNELLA AS "EXTREMELY DISQUIETING." THE PARTY NEWSPAPER PLEDGED THAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD ACT TO BRING THE PRESENT DEBATE TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION, BUT WOULD ALSO SUPPORT CONVENING ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES IN THE FUTURE IF FACTS BROUGHT OUT EITHER IN THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OR BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT SO WARRANT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL REQUESTS, INQUIRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MINO MARTINAZZOLI, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, TOOK THE FLOOR. MARINAZZOLI SPOKE IN A RESERVED BUT FIRM MANNER AND MAINTAINED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD FOLLOWED UP ALL AVAILABLE INVESTIGATIVE LEADS. HIS SPEECH WAS WIDELY APPLAUDED AND SEEMS TO HAVE DISSIPATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL OF THE SITUATION. PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE ASSURED US THAT PANNELLA'S INITIATIVE IS "DEAD."

4. DEBATE ON THE LOCKHEED QUESTION IS SCHEDULED TO END MARCH 9. VOTING WILL BEGIN ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 10. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR INDICTMENT OF BOTH TANASSI AND GUI, BUT THE MARGIN OF VOTES AGAINST THE LATTER WILL BE CLOSE, AND THE RESULT COULD CONCEIVABLY GO THE OTHER WAY. BEAUDRY

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, ALLEGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 ROME 3566, 77 ROME 3469  
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**Subject:** LOCKHEED DEBATE STIRRED BY ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
**TAGS:** PINT, EIND, IT, LOCKHEED, (PANNELLA, MARCO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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